

**ABSTRACT**

An apparatus and method for switching a channel among a plurality of sources selected by a viewer are provided. The apparatus includes: a plurality of tuners coupled to receive incoming channel signals from the plurality of sources for decoding the received channel signals; a switch circuit coupled to receive the output signals from each of the plurality of tuners; and, a controller, coupled to the plurality of tuners and the switch circuit, for retrieving the output signals indicative of a desired program selected by the viewer according to predetermined channel map information. The method includes the steps of: receiving a plurality of television programs from the plurality of sources; retrieving one of the television programs from the plurality of sources in response to a user selection according to a predetermined channel map data; and, forwarding the retrieved television program to the television system for display.